OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S. Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
May 16, 2023
Conference Call
Pramod Bonde, MD, Chair
Peter Stock, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee – Management of International Living Donors in the U.S. (the Subcommittee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 05/16/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Open Forum

The following is a summary of the Subcommittee's discussions.

1. Open Forum

The Subcommittee is divided into five groups: communications, logistics, donor follow-up, undocumented Non-U.S. Citizens/Non-U.S. Residents (NCNR), and risk of exploitation, inducement, and coercion. The communications group met, and staff gave an overview of the project purpose, *Management of International Living Donors in the U.S.* The group had an open discussion about the communications components related to the project.

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested exploring the following research questions.

- How many people have come from abroad to donate in the U.S.?
- What organs have been donated by international living donors?
- What countries are traveling from to the U.S.?
- What has been done to help international living donors travel to the U.S.?

Another member shared that at their program, they would conduct a screening call with the donor, and the potential donor would have testing done locally before traveling to the U.S. for donation. Another member asked how the first contact with the potential donor was established. A member replied that at their program, potential international donors could access an online platform and fill out a questionnaire; if they pass the questionnaire, the interpreter services will call the potential donor. Another member inquired about how evaluation is paid for overseas. A member responded that testing for evaluation is done through the donors' primary doctor, and may be paid for through the donors' insurance, or they might pay out of pocket. Another member further inquired if the donor pays out of pocket, does the potential recipient reimburse them, and if this is an area of concern.

A member suggested that international donors could utilize an online portal to initiate contact with the transplant program to express interest in being a potential living donor. She also noted that it's essential to understand which platforms could be utilized to communicate with international donors, such as Zoom or WhatsApp so that they are not charged for international calling. Additionally, it is critical to understand if international donors rely on another individual to help them with technology to

make the first contact with the transplant program because the potential donor may not have the resources, such as access to the Internet. Staff asked if transplant programs are required to use an online platform that allows potential donors to express interest in organ donation. A member responded no; it varies amongst programs, where some programs use a platform called Breeze while others do not use a platform at all. Another member shared that the potential international donor would call and leave a message at their program, and the nurse coordinator will contact them back.

Members inquired if it was worth establishing communication with healthcare facilities abroad to help manage potential international donors. Another member noted that from a communication standpoint, medical records might need translating and inquired if this would require a cost. A member summarized that the main communication barriers include initial contact with the potential donor, language barriers, regulatory barriers that may apply, and interpretation of medical documents.

Next steps:

The Subcommittee will continue to discuss the different components of the project.

Upcoming Meeting

- May 23, 2023

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
    - Ashtar Chami
    - Chang Liu
    - George Bayliss
- **HRSA Representatives**
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
    - Tamika Watkins
- **Other Attendees**